

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DECEMBER 16, 2025

A Special Meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Commission Chambers; Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

The following members were present: Chair Tiseo, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Doherty, and Commissioner Truex. Also in attendance were: County Administrator Flores, County Attorney Knowlton, and Minutes Clerk Welsh. The following members were absent: None.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:17 am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen Input – Agenda Items Only

Tom Spencer, City of Punta Gorda Utilities Director spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Steve Leonard, City of Punta Gorda Regulatory Compliance Manager spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Tim Ritchie, March Against Mosaic President discussed Local Bill Discussion.

Dr. Debi Lux spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Chuck Lewis spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Janis Denton, City of Punta Gorda Council Member spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Michael Muscari, Republican Executive Committee Member spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Jeannine Polk, City of Punta Gorda Vice Mayor spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

City of Punta Gorda Council Member Greg Julian spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Interim City of Punta Gorda Attorney Steven Leskovich spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Ashley Omelanski-Carney, City of Punta Gorda Executive Assistant spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Cindy O'Hara spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Melissa Lockhart, City of Punta Gorda Council Member spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

Kathleen Davis spoke against Local Bill Discussion.

1. Local Bill Discussion

Chair Tiseo mentioned Timeline, General Development utility and property acquisition, due diligence, City of Punta Gorda Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and partnership, Representative Vanessa Oliver, rate payer impacts, Enterprise Charlotte Airport Park (ECAP) projects, Shell Creek withdrawal improvements, growth accommodations, December 17, 2025 Legislative Delegation Local Bill Meeting, accusations, financial disclosures, industrial developers, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meetings, Florida League of Cities (FLC), Florida Association of Counties (FAC), property tax reform uncertainties, legal review, Bill withdrawal request and amendments, and boundary codification. **Commissioner Constance** commented on Timeline, City of Punta Gorda opposition letter and Ordinances, December 17, 2025 Legislative Delegation Local Bill Meeting input opportunity and attendance, Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), Interlocal Agreement 2025-245, collaborative efforts, ECAP connection, existing infrastructure, Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA) Phase 1A Interconnect Pipeline Project and partnership agreement, funding component and sources, Charlotte County Utilities (CCU) and Punta Gorda Utilities meetings, economic requirements, water booster station and interim water purchase options, Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meetings, postponement, and property ownership locations. **Commissioner Deutsch** noted Representative Vanessa Oliver, City of Punta Gorda partnership, property ownership, misinformation, public opposition and input, implementation cost responsibility, unfunded mandates, utility bill and infrastructure cost increases, December 17, 2025 Legislative Delegation Local Bill Meeting, funding sources, and withdrawal request. **Commissioner Doherty** spoke to City of Punta Gorda Ordinance and partnership, legally defined utility service area boundaries, records request, limitations, Reverse Osmosis (RO) expansion timeline, Economic Development areas, reliable and stable infrastructure, ILA, water supply, capacity, distribution, and transmission, PRMRWSA connection opportunities, boundary codification, Utilities Department Quarterly Meeting participation and shared data, December 17, 2025 Legislative Delegation Local Bill Meeting attendance, property ownership locations, and Bill withdrawal request. **Commissioner Truex** noted City of Punta Gorda partnership, transmission line cost, and Ordinance, Piper Road expansion, timeline adjustments, employment opportunities, investor revenue loss, public accusatory comments, financial disclosure, property ownership, boundary codification, and withdrawal request.

Assistant County Administrator Claire Jubb gave a brief overview of Timeline, Key provisions of the Bill, City of Punta Gorda (PG) Service Area, Overview of Charlotte County Utilities, Analysis - Timing and Logistics Potable Water, Analysis - Timing and Logistics Wastewater, Analysis - Unknowns, Analysis - Fees, Analysis - Costs, Proposed Amendments to Language, responded to Interlocal Agreement 2025-245, PRMRWSA purchase availability, and April 14, 2026 Utilities Department Quarterly Update Meeting.

County Attorney Knowlton interjected on City of Punta Gorda records request, withdrawal request, and fallback position.

Kay Tracy, Economic Development Director remarked on City of Punta Gorda partnership, ECAP service availability, water pressure and storage challenges, water meter and internal grounding delays, and annexation documentation challenges.

Tom Spencer, City of Punta Gorda Utilities Director replied to City of Punta Gorda Ordinances, Florida Statute 180, ECAP zone service area, and collaborative efforts.

Eve Sweeting, Legislative Manager responded to Representative Vanessa Oliver and Proposed Amendments to the Local Bill.

COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVE TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL LEGISLATION BILL, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DOHERTY

MOTION CARRIED 5:0.

AA. County Administrator Comments

County Administrator Flores discussed community partnerships and Junior Commission Program.

BB. County Attorney Comments - None

CC. Commissioner Comments

Chair Tiseo mentioned City of Punta Gorda Council Members Melissa Lockhart and Greg Julian outreach. **Commissioner Constance** spoke to December 15, 2025 MPO Meeting, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Jamie Driggers, US 17 Corridor Study request, potential growth, traffic flows, property tax reform impacts and uncertainties, January 20, 2026 Board Workshop, and Wakulla County Commissioner Ralph Thomas. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on December 27, 2025 William R. Gaines Jr. Freedom Run 5K and Kayak Launch Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. **Commissioner Doherty** noted City of Punta Gorda attendance.

ADJOURNED: 12:04 pm

Joseph M. Tiseo, Chair

DATE ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST:

**ROGER D. EATON, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk